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Training

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Fellowship in Congressional Operations
1975-1976

SUMMARY

The Fellowship in Congressional Operations (Congressional Fellowship Program) is a very useful program for midcareer, midlevel Agency officers. It provides a broad experience, applicable in any Directorate, and equips the participant with an insight into Congressional inquiries which are likely, at one time or another, to descend upon him on return to the Agency and his parent office.

DISCUSSION

The 1975-1976 Program contained 40 participants equally divided among federal employees, academics, and physicians. Three diplomats from Bangladesh also joined the group. With the exception of the academics, who ranged in age from 25 to 35 years, the ages of the group ranged from 33 to 50 years.

Although the Program is officially sponsored by the Civil Service Commission, the Commission personnel managed to attend all of the cocktail parties, but little else. Day-to-day operation of the Program was handled by the American Political Science Association.

The entire Program is divided into four phases: a seminar series at Johns Hopkins; a Senate work experience; a Canadian Parliamentary Exchange; and a House work-experience.

The Johns Hopkins phase is a graduate seminar into which the federal fellows are enrolled if they represent agencies with an international mission. The seminars are augmented by smaller, informal luncheons at which guest speakers discuss various aspects of Congress, and if they were former fellows, they shared their experiences.

Near the end of the seminar (1 semester), the rest of the participants (academics, physicians, diplomats) arrived, and the entire group met for a series of presentations at Brookings Institution.

The second phase of the Program was a Senate work-experience. Senator Lee Metcalf, Montana, hosted me in his immediate office. Senator Metcalf, as a member of the Government Operations Committee, was very involved in the legislation to create the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, S. Res. 400, and I worked with the Committee staff on that legislation. In addition, I specialized in energy affairs - particularly the ERDA appropriations request, advising the Senator in his capacity as member of the Interior Committee. For a research project, I developed a technical paper on the feasibility of extracting uranium from Western coal as a further source of energy. Traveling to the state of Montana, I acted as the Senator's representative at the Western Energy Show.

The second phase of the Program was the Canadian Parliamentary Exchange Program for which I was selected to lead the U.S. delegation of Fellows on a visit to Ottawa and Parliament. The week's visit included an extensive series of receptions and briefings, and a meeting with Trudeau. The Canadian Parliamentary Interns then visited Washington for a similar series.

The third phase of the Program was the House work experience. Representative Charles Mosher hosted me on his personal staff and asked me to draft a bill to create a national program in earthquake research. HR 13845 was the result. The bill carried through a set of hearings in subcommittee and passed the Budget Committee by special resolution - since it authorized funds after the cut-off date for reporting under the Budget Resolution. Brought to the floor under a suspension of the rules (2/3 vote required), the bill lost, although it did carry by a majority. Reintroduced during the subsequent session, the bill did pass, and the National Earthquake Research Program is now funded at \$100 million per year. Engineering the legislation through the process was a challenging and rewarding experience. Instead of travel to the Mosher district, I traveled to the various earthquake research institutes as background for the legislation.

The experience with Mosher involved extensive contact with scientific elements within the Congress. As a member of the Office of Technology Assessment, Mosher had access to the major scientific programs in the country, and as the ranking member of the Science and Technology Committee, he had oversight and authorization of NBS, NASA, ERDA, and the National Science Foundation. I shared in his access as a member of his staff responsible for science and technology.

Returning to the Agency, I proposed three new technical collection programs which grew out of contacts and experiences gained in the Program and have observed, over the last year, a great increase in Congressional interest in scientific programs. I look forward to continued service in the Agency and recommend that it continue to invest in midlevel officers by sponsoring them in the program.



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